

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A sound-absorbing material, wherein a non-woven fabric with a mass per unit area of 150 to 800 g/m² and a bulk density of 0.01 to 0.2 g/cm³ and a surface material with an air permeability of not more than 50 cc/cm²/sec measured according to JIS L-1096 are layered.

2. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 1, wherein the non-woven fabric is a fabric in which a thermoplastic staple fiber and a heat resistant staple fiber with an LOI value of not less than 25 are intertwisted.

3. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of the thermoplastic staple fiber and the heat resistant staple fiber is in a range of 95:5 to 55:45.

4. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of the thermoplastic staple fiber and the heat resistant staple fiber is in a range of 85:15 to 55:45.

5. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic staple fiber is at least one kind of staple fibers selected from the group consisting of a polyester fiber, a polypropylene fiber and a nylon fiber.

6. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2, wherein the heat resistant staple fiber is at least one kind of staple fibers selected from the group consisting of an aramid fiber, a polyphenylene sulfide fiber, a polybenzoxazole fiber, a polybenzothiazole fiber, a polybenzimidazole fiber, a polyether ether ketone fiber, a polyarylate fiber, a polyimide fiber, a fluoride fiber and a flame resistant fiber.

7. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic staple fiber is a polyester staple fiber and the heat resistant staple fiber is an aramid staple fiber.

8. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the non-woven fabric is produced by needle punch method or water jet method.

9. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the surface material is a spun bonded non-woven fabric or a wet-laid non-woven staple fabric.

10. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 9, wherein the wet-laid non-woven fabric is comprised of a heat resistant staple fiber with an LOI value of not less than 25.

11. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 9, wherein the wet-laid non-woven fabric is comprised of a heat resistant staple fiber with an LOI value of not less than 25 and a silicate mineral.

12. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 11, wherein the silicate mineral is mica.

13. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the heat resistant staple fiber is an aramid staple fiber.

14. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 9 to 13~~ claim 9, wherein the surface material has a dust generation number of not more than 500 particles/0.1 ft³ of particles with a diameter of not less than 0.3 μm measured by the tumbling method according to JIS B-9923 6.2(1.2).

15. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein the non-woven fabric and the surface material are comprised of the same kind of synthetic fiber.

16. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, wherein the non-woven fabric and the surface material are layered by bonding, and the number of the bonding points of the non-woven fabric and the surface material is not more than 30 points/cm², and the ratio of the total surface area of the bonding points to the total surface area of the bonding points and the non-bonding points is not more than 30%.

17. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1, wherein the non-woven fabric is in the shape of a polyhedron and the surface material is layered on two or more faces of the polyhedron.

18. (Original) The sound-absorbing material according to claim 17, wherein the non-woven fabric is in the shape of a hexahedron and the surface material is layered on both side faces of the hexahedron.

19. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1, wherein the non-woven fabric is in the shape of a column or a cylinder and the surface material is layered on the curved face of the column or the cylinder.

20. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1 having a multilayer structure comprising at least one or more layers of each of the non-woven fabric and the surface layer, wherein the both layers are united.

21. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1, which is used as a vehicle interior material or a vehicle exterior material.

22. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1, which is used as a sound-absorbing material for a lawn mower.

23. (Currently amended) The sound-absorbing material according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1, which is used as a sound-absorbing material for a breaker.